

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01942 171531Z

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TO USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: ELECTRONIC DIALOGUES ON ENERGY QUESTION.

1. WITH MISSION CONCURRENCE, USIS OTTAWA PROPOSES SERIES OF THREE ELECTRONIC DIALOGUES ON U.S. ENERGY POLICY TO BE HELD WITH CANADIAN LEADERS IN TORONTO AND OTTAWA AND, PERHAPS, EDMONTON, WHERE PREMIER OF ALBERTA HAS EVIDENCED TENTATIVE INTEREST IN ED WITH SENIOR PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS. WE BELIEVE PRESIDENT'S ENERGY MESSAGE AND APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL ENERGY COORDINATOR AND LATTER'S STATEMENT OF AUGUST 9 PROVIDE EXCELLENT MATERIAL FOR PRESENTATION THT WILL RESULT IN USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS AND CANADIAN MEDIA REPS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN ALL THREE CENTERS. WE BELIEVE THAT STEPS OUTLINED IN PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, SUCH AS 10 BILLION DOLLAR FIVE YEAR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WITH GREATLY INCREASED COAL LIQUEFACTION AND GASIFICATION EFFORT, NATIONAL CONSERVATION DRIVE, AND USG CONSULTATIVE AND COOPERATION EFFORTS WITH MAJOR OIL PRODUCING NATIONS TO ENSURE STABLE SUPPLY OF OIL, HAVE NOT RECEIVED ADEQUATE ATTENTION IN CANADA. IN ADDITION, SPACE DEVOTED TO CANADIAN AND AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTALISTS' CONCERN OVER TAPS AND WEST COAST OIL SHIPMENTS STILL OUTWEIGHS THAT GIVEN TO USG STUDIES, PRECAUTIONS AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING IN THIS FIELD. PURPOSE OF EDS WOULD BE PRIMARILY TO REACH IMPORTANT MEDIA REPS, INCLUDING MAJOR ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 01942 171531Z

WRITERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BOTH FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL.

2. FOR US SIDE, WE RECOMMEND GOVERNOR LOVE, WILLIAM E. SIMON, MICHAEL DIBONA, JAMES AKINS, WILLIS C. ARMSTRONG OR JULIUS L. KATZ. SUGGEST AGENCY CONSIDER FEASIBILITY OF US PANEL OF THREE. BELL CANADA HAS ASSURED US OF HIGH QUALITY HOOKUP SO ADDITIONAL NUMBER SHOULD NOT PRESENT TECHNICAL PROBLEMS. REQUEST AGENCY FILM 16MM OPENING STATEMENT DISCUSSING US ENERGY POLICY BY PARTICIPANTS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO LONG-TERM SOLUTION, PUTTING INTO PERSPECTIVE RELATIVELY LIMITED ROLE CANADIAN OIL RESERVES PLAY IN US PLANNING AND REASSURING CANADIANS AS TO U.S. INTEREST IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. ALTHOUGH US PARTICIPANTS CAN EXPECT HEAVY GOING ON MANY ASPECTS THESE QUESTIONS, WE BELIEVE DIALOGUE COULD BRING MORE POSITIVE INFORMATION AND REPORTING ON ENTIRE ENERGY QUESTION TO KEY OPINION MAKERS THAN HAS BEEN THE CASE IN CANADA.

3. REQUEST AGENCY CHECK FEASIBILITY OF PROGRAMMING AT LEAST TWO SUCH PROGRAMS WITHIN NEXT THIRTY DAYS, EITHER ON SAME DAY OR AS CLOSE TO ONE ANOTHER AS POSSIBLE.
FORDNEY

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